

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 ERDA-05 FEA-01
ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /106 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/RD:JCOON/ACDA:DRUST:BJE
APPROVED BY OES/NET/RD:JBORIGHT
ARA/AND/C:D.COX
PM/NPT:A.LOCKE
ERDA:MR. SLAWSON

-----058262 092133Z /64

P R 092009Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187696

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, TECH, PARM, CO, MNUC

SUBJECT: BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
REF A BOGOTA 6889 B BOGOTA 3741 C BOGOTA 1362 D STATE 183139
1. THE WHITEHOUSE SENT TO CONGRESS ON APRIL 27 THE
PROPOSED NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY ACT OF 1977. AT LEAST
TWO OTHER NON-PROLIFERATION BILLS HAVE ALSO BEEN INTRODUCED
DURING THIS SESSION IN HOUSE AND SENATE. WE ARE NOW WORK-
ING WITH COMMITTEE STAFFS TO RECONCILE THE SEVERAL PICES
OF LEGISLATION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE
ENACTED SOMETIME THIS FALL.

2. LEGISLATION WILL ESTABLISH CONDITIONS WHICH WILL BE
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REQUIRED IN NEW AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE ONE WE WILL BE NEGOTIATING WITH COLUMBIA AND WILL ALSO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR NUCLEAR EXPORTS.

3. ONCE LEGISLATION IS IN PLACE, WE WILL BE UNDERTAKING A NEGOTIATING PROGRAM INVOLVING PERHAPS 30 NEW OR EXISTING AGREEMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. OUR PRESENT PLANNING ON

NEGOTIATING PRIORITIES WOULD PUT COLUMBIA NEAR THE HEAD OF THE LIST.

4. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, COLUMBIA HAS SIGNED, BUT NOT RATIFIED THE NPT. THIS WOULD SEEM AN APPROPRIATE CONTEXT

TO ONCE AGAIN RAISE RATIFICATION ISSUE (LAST RAISED IN FEBRUARY PER REF. C) ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

-- THE US IS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF GOC EFFORTS EARLIER THIS YEAR TO EXTEND GUARANTEES AND SAFEGUARDS AT THE TIME THE BILATERAL EXPIRED.

-- AS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, WE WILL BE GIVING GOC EARLY ATTENTION ONCE THE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM BEGINS AND IN THAT CONTEXT GOC SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO NPT ADHERENCE WHEN NEGOTIATING NEW AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION.

-- IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS IF COLUMBIA HAD RATIFIED OR AT LEAST STARTED MOVEMENT TOWARDS RATIFICATION BY THE TIME WE OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BILATERAL.

-- GOC HAS INDICATED ITS SUPPORT FOR NON-PROLIFERATION PRINCIPLES BY ITS RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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TLATELOLCO AND SIGNATURE OF NPT.

-- THE NPT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND AT PRESENT THERE ARE 102 PARTIES-- PANAMA AND SWITZERLAND BEING THE MOST RECENT ADHERENTS.

-- NINETEEN LATIN AMERICAN STATES HAVE SIGNED THE NPT AND COLUMBIA IS THE ONLY MAJOR COUNTRY AMONG THESE SIGNATORIES WHICH HAS NOT RATIFIED (OTHERS ARE BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO).

-- WHILE US RECOGNIZES ITS CONCERNS ABOUT NEIGHBORS (REF. C, PARA. 5) GOC COULD IN FACT ENHANCE ITS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN DISARMAMENT FIELD BY SETTING AN EXAMPLE THROUGH NPT RATIFICATION WHICH COULD BE CITED TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM TOWARDS DENUCLEARIZATION OF LATIN AMERICA.

-- GOC HAS ALREADY FORESWORN DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY RATIFICATION OF TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE. NPT RATIFICATION WOULD ONLY REAFFIRM EXISTING OBLIGATIONS. BEGIN

CONTINGENCY POINT; IF COLOMBIANS REITERATE ARGUMENTS MADE IN REF. C, YOU MAY, AT YOUR DISCRETION, POINT OUT THAT ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION FROM SUCH AN ARGUMENT, I.E., THAT GOC FAILURE TO RATIFY NPT IS RESULT OF SECURITY CONCERNS AND NEED TO KEEP ITS NUCLEAR OPTION OPEN IS TO CALL INTO QUESTION ITS LEGAL FORESWEARING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTAINED IN TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. USG IS CERTAIN GOC

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS AND DOES NOT WANT TO CONVEY ANY SUCH IMPRESSION. END CONTINGENCY POINT.

-- USG WOULD STRONGLY URGE GOC TO CONSIDER BENEFITS OF RATIFYING NPT BOTH IN TERMS OF FACILITATING FUTURE CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION WITH US IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND AS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO LONG-TERM REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STABILITY.

5. GOC FAILURE--REALLY THREE YEARS BEYOND THE DEADLINE-- TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS WITH IAEA ON TREATY OF TLATELOLCO SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT RAISES DOUBTS AS TO SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH COLUMBIANS VIEW THEIR OBLIGATIONS IN THIS FIELD. ACCORDINGLY, THIS ISSUE SHOULD ALSO BE RAISED:

-- IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING NPT IN CONTEXT OF RENEGOTIATING BILATERAL GOC SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO EARLY COMPLETION OF THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA REQUIRED BY THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO.

-- MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE BY GOC PRIOR TO OPENING OF NEGOTIATION ON BILATERAL WOULD BE LOOKED UPON BY USG AS GIVING FURTHER SUBSTANCE TO GOC COMMITMENT TO COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS--WHICH WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCE OF SUCH A STEP AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TO FACILITATE OUR NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW AGREEMENT.

6. DEPT WOULD WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL IDEAS WHICH THE EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE ON HOW BEST TO MOVE COLUMBIA TOWARD NPT ADHERENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, VENEZUELA HAS INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUGGEST A PRESIDENTIAL-LEVEL APPROACH FROM PEREZ IN SUPPORT OF THE NPT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM BOTH EMBASSIES BOGOTA AND CARACAS ON THE UTILITY OF THIS PROPOSAL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NPT, TREATY RATIFICATION, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE187696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCOON/ACDA:DRUST:BJE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770286-0800
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770880/aaaacptj.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4e6c635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1659106
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, MNUC, US, CO, VE
To: BOGOTA USIAEA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e6c635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009